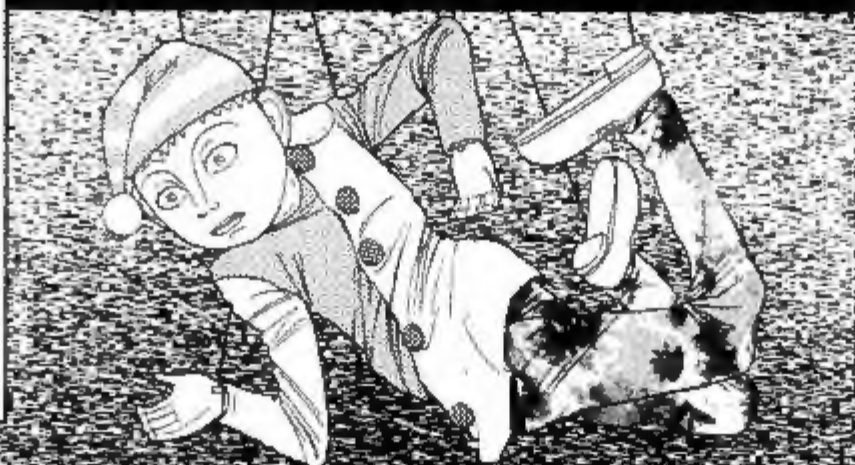


THE INVESTIGATION
HAD BROUGHT IS TO
SHIKOTSU GA HARA,
WHERE WE WITNESSED
THE PUPPETMASTER PUT
ON A FEARSOME "MAGIC
SHOW OF DEATH"



IT STARTED WHEN
THE POLICE RECEIVED
A MYSTERIOUS
THREAT FROM
SOMEONE CALLING
HIMSELF "THE
PUPPETMASTER"

WHO WAS THE
PUPPETMASTER?

...ARRANGED
IN A POSE
IDENTICAL TO
THE BENT
MARIONETTE
SENT TO THE
POLICE.



AFTER-
WARDS, HIS
CORPSE
REAPPEARED
IN A ROOM
AT THE
STATION
HOTEL...

FIRST
THERE WAS
YAMAGAMI,
MURDERED
IN A TRAIN
COMPART-
MENT...

...ONLY
TO
VANISH
IN AN
INSTANT.



GENTLE YAMAGAMI



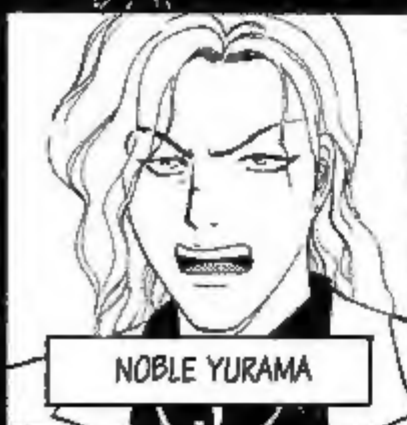
SATOMI ZANMA



SAKONJI PIERROT



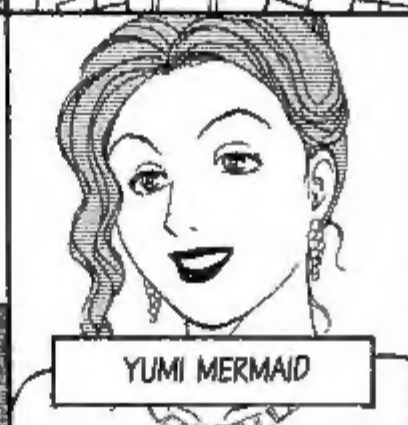
KOUSHIRO NAGASAKI



NOBLE YURAMA



YOICHI TAKATO



YUMI MERMAID



SAKIRABA THE CHANNELER



EEEEEEK!

LOOK!
THERE!

NOW THE
SECOND
MURDER HAD
OCCURED
DURING THE
MAGIC SHOW.

金田一事件簿
少年の事件簿
THE KINDAICHI CASE FILES

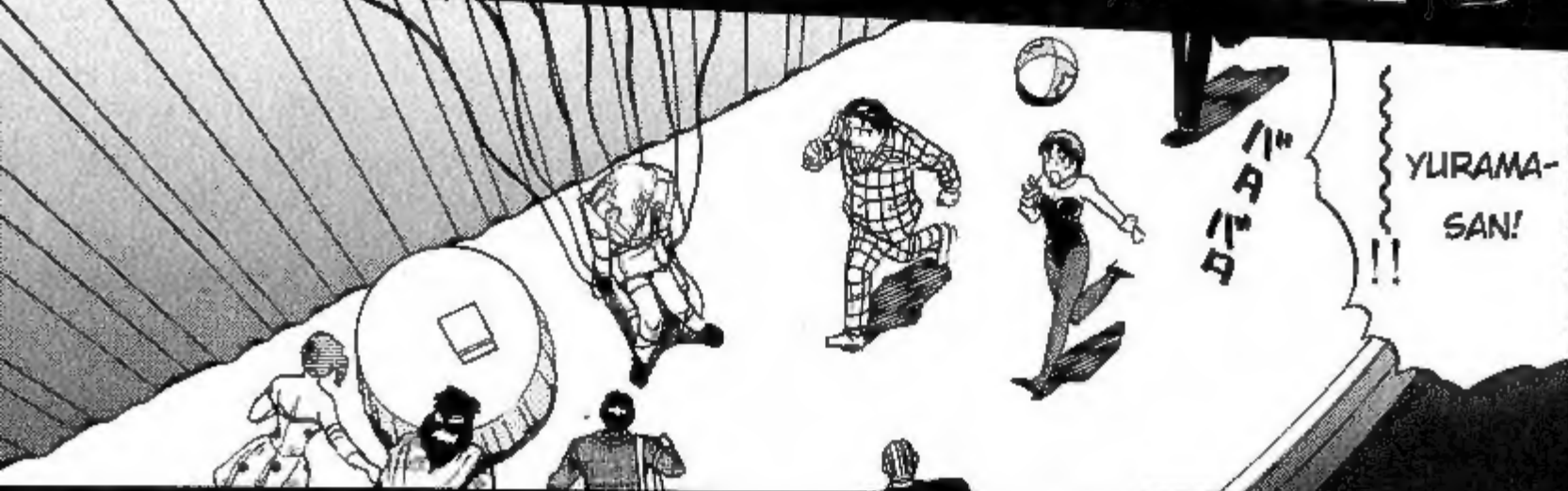


IN THE FEW
SECONDS THE
LIGHTS WERE
OUT, THE
MARIONETTE
SEATED
ON STAGE
HAD BEEN
REPLACED...

...WITH THE
BODY OF
NOBLE
YURAMA,
STABBED
THROUGH
THE HEART
WITH A
KNIFE!

ファイル15
CASE FILE #15

まじゅつれつしやさつじん じけん
魔術列車殺人事件⑥
MAGICAL EXPRESS MURDER CASE (6)



WHEN THE
BODY WAS
THROWN
FROM THE
CEILING, THE
WEIGHT
CARRIED
IT UP
THERE!

LIKE A
SEESAW!



TAKE A
LOOK AT
THE CEILING,
KENMOCHI-
KUN!

AH
!

ON THE
OTHER END
OF THE
STRINGS
ATTACHED
TO THE BODY
IS THAT
MARIONETTE.

SUPER-
INTENDENT
AKECHI, WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
HERE
!!

WAIT,
OSSAN!



WHICH
MEANS
THAT THE
KILLER
WAS...

THE
BODY WAS
THROWN
FROM THE
CEILING?



WHAT'S
GOING ON,
DETECTIVE?

I MEAN
IF WE
DON'T
HURRY,
THE
KILLER
WILL BE

KINDAICHI!
WHERE
WERE
YOU?

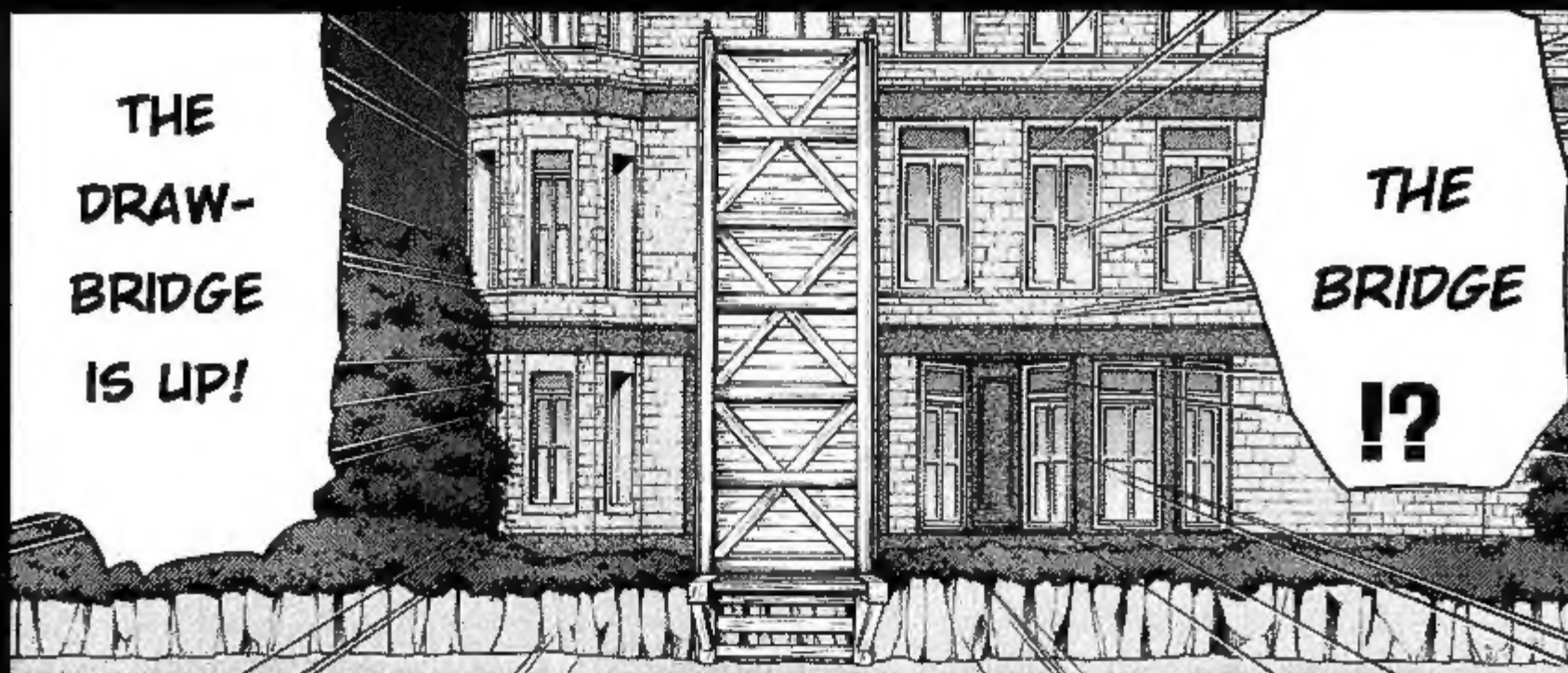


GET ALL THE
MEMBERS OF
THE MAGIC
TROUPE
TOGETHER AND
BRING THEM
OUTSIDE THE
THEATER!

AH
!?

THE
DRAW-
BRIDGE
IS UP!

THE
BRIDGE
!?



THIS THEATER
IS SURROUNDED
BY THE LAKE,
AND THE ONLY
WAY TO GET
OUTSIDE IS TO
CROSS THAT
BRIDGE.

I ACCIDENT-
ALLY BROKE
IT AND
RAISED THE
BRIDGE...

WHEN I
CROSSED THE
BRIDGE, I WAS
RUSHING AND I
TRIPPED, AND
HIT THE
LEVER.

I'M
SORRY,
ACTUALLY
I DID IT...

WHO
COULD
HAVE
DONE
THIS?

...THIS
THEATER
WAS ONE
GREAT BIG
LOCKED
ROOM!

IN OTHER
WORDS,
WHILE THE
MAGIC SHOW
WAS BEING
PERFORMED
...

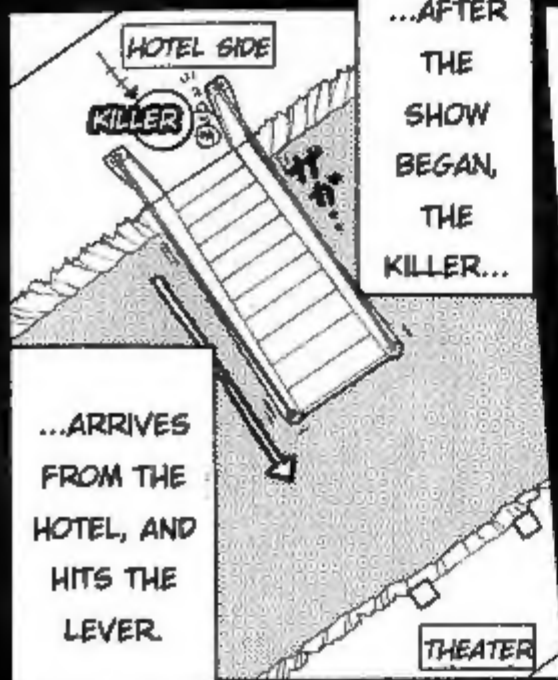
WONDER
ABOUT
THAT.

SO, THE
KILLER, FROM
BEFORE THE
SHOW STARTED,
THE ENTIRE
TIME DURING,
AND EVEN
NOW...

...IS STILL
INSIDE THE
THEATER!

WHAT
!?

SO?



...AFTER
THE
SHOW
BEGAN,
THE
KILLER...

COULDN'T
IT HAVE
BEEN
THAT...

...ARRIVES
FROM THE
HOTEL, AND
HITS THE
LEVER.

AND THEN
HE KILLS
YURAMA
INSIDE THE
THEATER...

AFTER ALL,
THEY HAVE A
LEVER TO
RAISE AND
LOWER THE
BRIDGE ON
THE HOTEL
SIDE TOO,
DON'T THEY?

SAKONJI!



AND THEN RAISES
THE BRIDGE USING
THE HOTEL SIDE
LEVER.



...AND AFTER
THROWING THE
DEAD BODY ONTO
THE STAGE, HE
RUSHES BACK TO
THE HOTEL.

SORRY,
BUT THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE,
SAKONJI-
SAN

THAT WAY,
BY NOW,
THE KILLER
COULD HAVE
GOTTEN
OUTSIDE!



NAGASAKI-
SAN! CAN
YOU CALL
THE HOTEL
AND HAVE
SOMEBODY
LOWER THE
BRIDGE?

OF
COURSE!



HUH?
W...
WHY...?

YOU'LL
UNDERSTAND
IF I
ACTUALLY
DO IT.



...I RUSHED
RIGHT OVER
TO THE
THEATER
ENTRANCE.

AND
RIGHT
AFTER THE
LIGHTS
CAME
ON...



...TOOK
ONLY 5-10
SECONDS.

THE TIME IT
TOOK BETWEEN
THE THEATER
GOING COM-
PLETELY DARK
AND YURAMA'S
BODY BEING
DISCOVERED
...



I CONFIRMED
THIS WITH MY
OWN WATCH.

THAT ONLY
TOOK 30
SECONDS.



YO.

YES,
SIR!



NAGASAKI-
SAN!
PLEASE
RAISE THE
BRIDGE.



AT THE TIME,
THE BRIDGE
WAS DEFINITELY
IN THE RAISED
POSITION.



...AT MOST
ONLY 40
SECONDS
COULD HAVE
PASSED.



AS YOU
CAN SEE, WITH
THE THEATER
DARK, AND WITH
ME GOING TO
CHECK ON THE
CONDITION OF
THE BRIDGE...





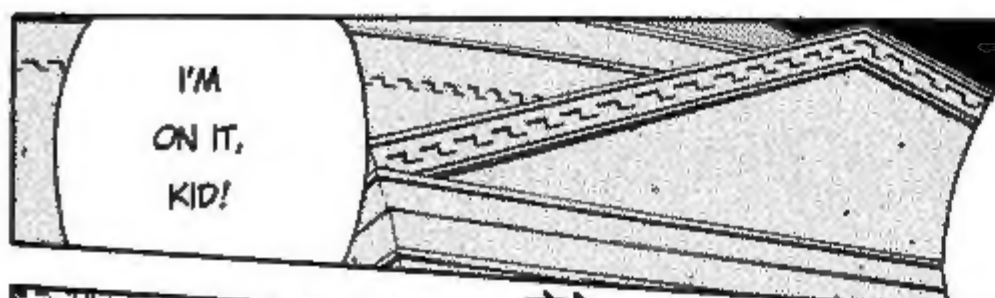
THERE'S NO
DOUBT THAT
THE KILLER
IS STILL
INSIDE THE
THEATER!

OSSAN! CONFIRM
EVERYONE'S
WHEREABOUTS
INSIDE THE
THEATER DURING
THE SHOW!

IT TAKES
1 MINUTE,
35 SECONDS
FOR THE
BRIDGE TO
BE FULLY
RAISED.



SAKONJI-
SAN'S
THEORY IS
IMPOSSIBLE
TIME-WISE!



I'M
ON IT,
KID!

AND
INVESTIGATE
ANYTHING
SUSPICIOUS!

AND CHECK ALL
AREAS WHERE
SOMEBODY
MIGHT BE ABLE
TO HIDE.



WHICH
MEANS
THAT, AS
WE
THOUGHT...

AMONG THE
AUDIENCE MEMBERS,
NOBODY LEFT THEIR
SEAT FROM THE TIME
THE LIGHTS WENT
OUT TO WHEN
THE BODY
APPEARED.



NO GOOD,
I SEARCHED
ALL OVER THE
THEATER, BUT
THERE WAS
NO HIDING
ANYWHERE.

HOW
WAS IT,
OSSAN

?



...IS ONE
OF THE
MEMBERS
OF THE
MAGIC
TROUPE!

YURAMA'S
KILLER...



WE ALL
HAVE
SOLID
ALIBIS!

COME ON
NOW,
DETECTIVE-
SAN! DON'T
BE HASTY!

WHAT?!



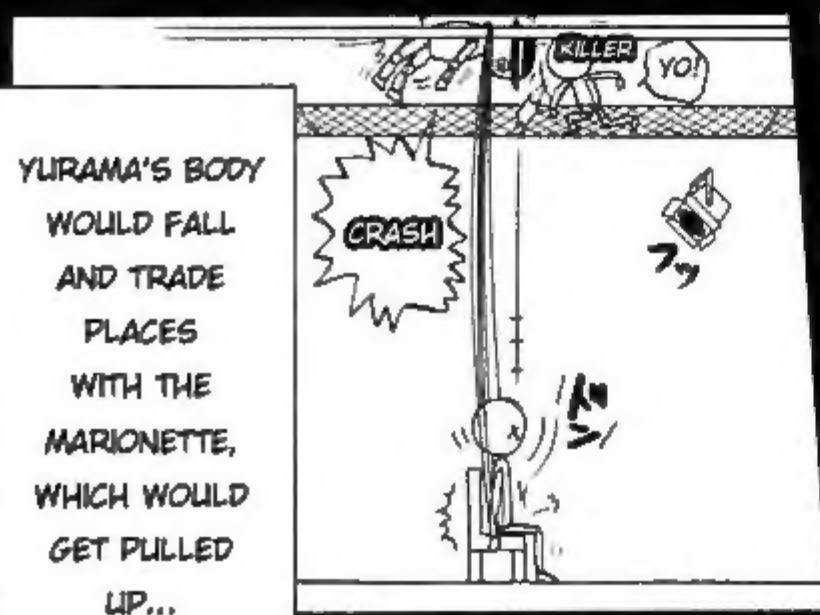
HOW
COULD
THAT
BE?

ONE
OF US
IS THE
KILLER?!

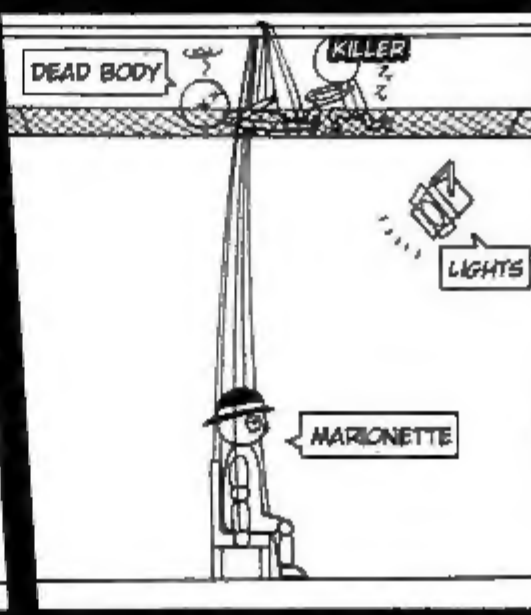


...WAS ACHIEVED
THROUGH A SEESAW
EFFECT, USING THE
CEILING BEAM,
RIGHT?

I'LL EXPLAIN THE
MAGIC TRICK BEHIND
SWITCHING THE
MARIONETTE ON
STAGE WITH
YURAMA'S BODY...



YURAMA'S BODY
WOULD FALL
AND TRADE
PLACES
WITH THE
MARIONETTE,
WHICH WOULD
GET PULLED
UP...

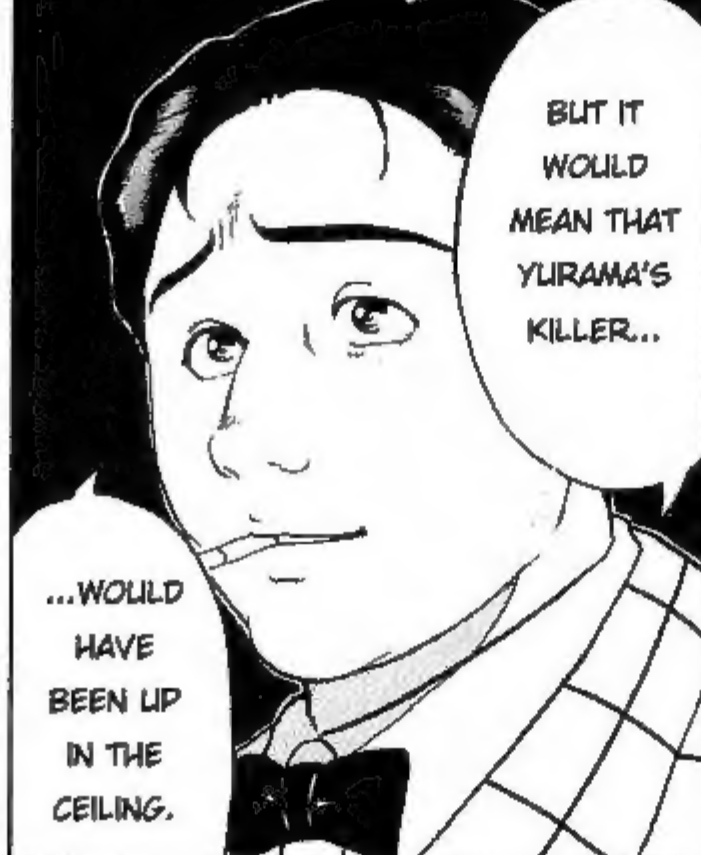


THE KILLER TIED
THE MARIONETTE
TO YURAMA'S
BODY, AND
DROPPED IT
FROM THE
CEILING WHEN
THE LIGHTS
WENT OUT.



AND TO GET DOWN FROM THERE TO THE SIDE OF THE STAGE THERE'S A STEEP STAIRCASE.

IT'D PROBABLY TAKE A GOOD DEAL OF TIME.



BUT IT WOULD MEAN THAT YURAMA'S KILLER...

...WOULD HAVE BEEN UP IN THE CEILING.

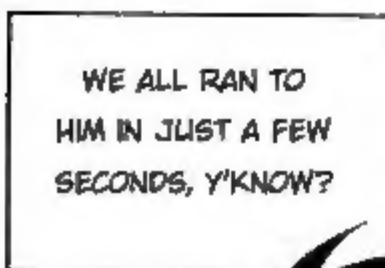


THIS IS A TYPICAL USE OF A "QUICK CHANGE" TECHNIQUE THAT WE MAGICIANS USE.

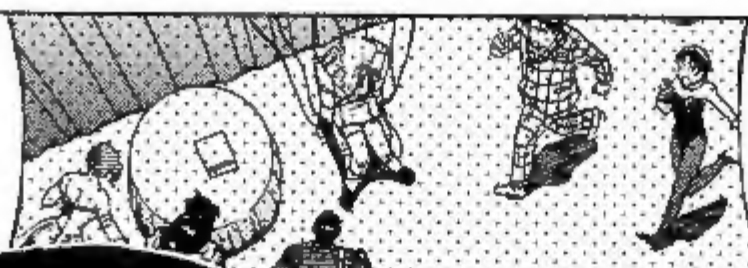
IT'S NOT THAT SPECIAL.



THAT WAS THE TRICK, RIGHT?



WE ALL RAN TO HIM IN JUST A FEW SECONDS, Y'KNOW?



BUT AS YOU KNOW, WHEN THE LIGHTS CAME ON, AND WE ALL SAW YURAMA DEAD...



YOU'D JUST NEED TO JUMP DOWN FROM THE CEILING TO THE STAGE WHILE THE LIGHTS WERE OUT.

BY CLIMBING DOWN THE ROPE ATTACHED TO YURAMA'S BODY.

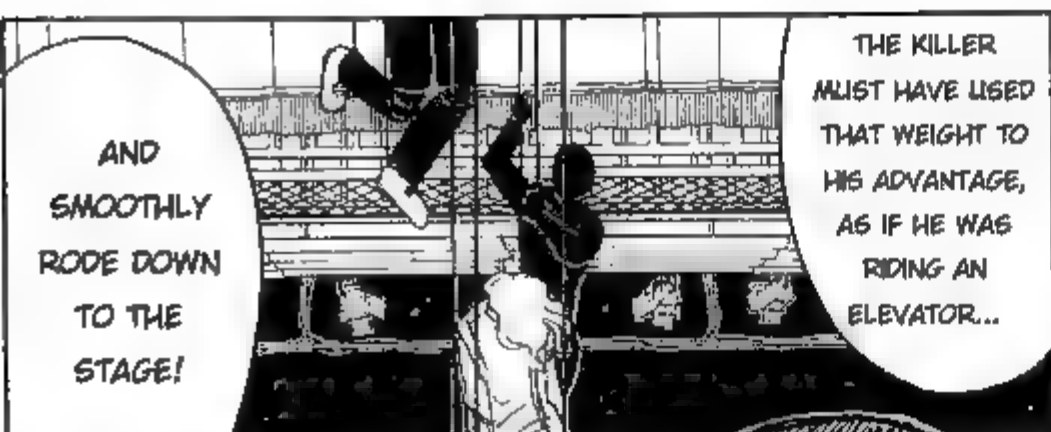


THAT'S RIGHT! GETTING DOWN THE STAIRS WOULD TAKE AT LEAST A MINUTE!

MORE LIKE AT LEAST 2 MINUTES!



NO, IF YOU JUST WANTED TO GET DOWN TO THE STAGE, IT WOULD ONLY TAKE AN INSTANT.



AND
SMOOTHLY
RODE DOWN
TO THE
STAGE!

THE KILLER
MUST HAVE USED
THAT WEIGHT TO
HIS ADVANTAGE,
AS IF HE WAS
RIDING AN
ELEVATOR...



IT MUST
BE VERY
HEAVY.

SEE HOW
BIG THIS
MARIO-
NETTE
IS?



THIS
MYSTERY IS
COMPLETELY
SOLVED!

I SEE!
I'VE
GOT IT!

HUH?
IT'S
?!?



I'M 116!
WHAT
ABOUT
IT?



180...



I'M...
WELL... 121
POUNDS



ALL OF
YOU TELL
ME YOUR
WEIGHTS!

OUR
WEIGHTS
?!



HM...

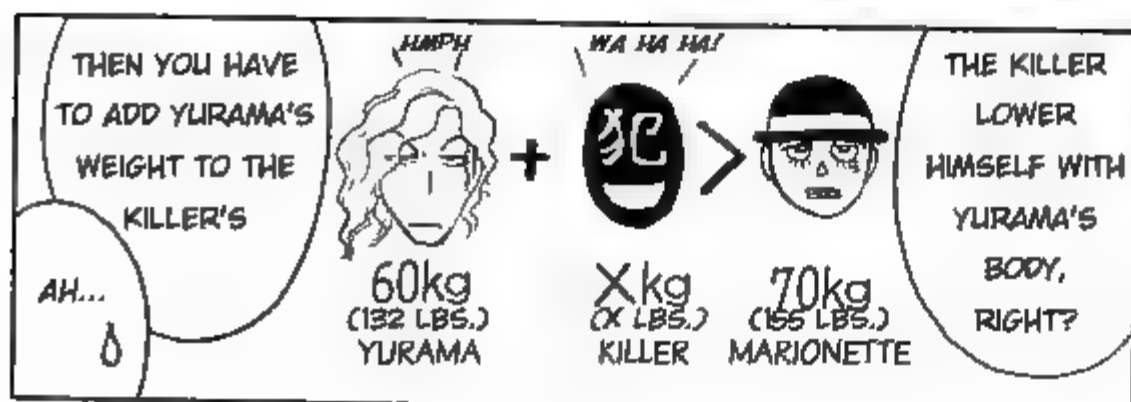
AND HOW
MUCH
DOES THE
MARIONETTE
WEIGH?



I'M 160.
WHAT
DOES IT
MATTER?



I THINK
I'M ABOUT
110...





WHICH
MEANS THAT
ANYBODY
COULD HAVE
DONE IT!

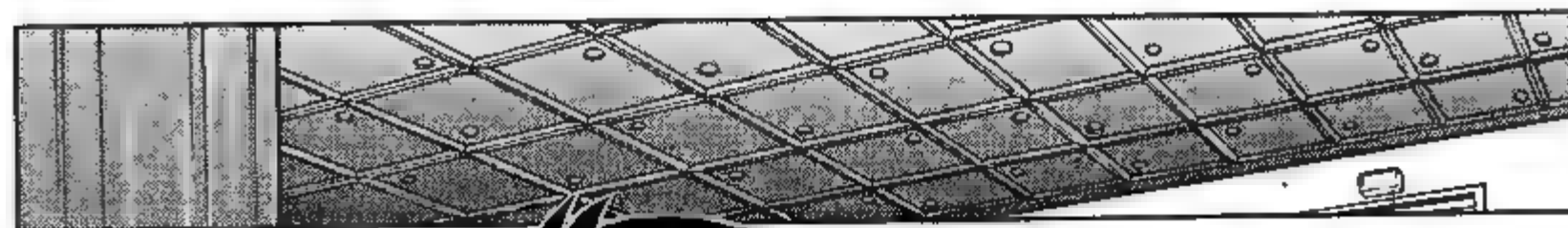
THERE'S
NOBODY HERE
WHO, IF YOU ADD
YURAMA'S WEIGHT,
IS CUMULATIVELY
LESS THAN
155 POUNDS,
RIGHT?



I SWEAR,
THINGS NEVER
GET BORING
WITH YOU,
KENMOCHI!

OH
COOPS.

♡ HAHA!
THIS VIDEO IS GOING
TO BE GREAT FOR
BLACKMAILING
KENMOCHI-
SAN!



I HAVE
CANDY, DO
YOU WANT
SOME?

MY
STOMACH'S
GROWLING.
I HAVEN'T
EATEN YET.



HM
?




NOT
YET.

FIGURED
IT OUT?



YOU TWO ARE SO FRIENDLY!



A black and white manga panel showing two characters from the chest up. The character on the left has short dark hair and wide, shocked eyes. The character on the right has short dark hair, wears glasses, and also has a shocked expression. A small lightning bolt symbol is drawn between them.


SOME-
THING BAD
HAPPENED
HERE?

HE SAID
THAT A
WHILE
BACK...

A large black and white manga panel featuring a close-up of a character's face. The character has short dark hair and a serious, somewhat somber expression. The background is dark and textured.

FIVE
YEARS AGO,
CHIKAMIYA-
SENSEI DIED
HERE.

RIGHT
IN THIS
THEATER.

A small black and white manga panel showing two characters in a hallway. One character is standing and looking towards the other, who is sitting or crouching down. The hallway has a tiled floor and walls.


OH,
THAT...
WELL,
YOU
SEE...

A small black and white manga panel showing two characters in profile, facing each other. One character is speaking, and the other is listening.

YES.

BACK
WHEN IT
WAS
CALLED
THE
CHIKAMIYA
MAGIC
TROUPE?


SATOMI-
CHAN YOU
SHOULDN'T
TALK ABOUT
THIS
WITHOUT
PERMISSION.

A large black and white manga panel featuring a close-up of a character's face. The character has short dark hair and a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of shock or surprise.


CHIKAMIYA...
YOU MEAN
THE FORMER
LEADER OF
THE MAGIC &
ILLUSION
TROUPE?



W-WELL...
APPARENTLY
IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT
DURING
REHEARSAL



HOW DID THIS
CHIKAMIYA-
SAN DIE?



THEY'LL
FIND OUT
ABOUT IT
EVENTUALLY
ANYWAY.



IT'S ALL
RIGHT,
TAKATOH-
SAN!



SINCE THEN,
ANYONE WHO
MENTIONS THE
NAME "CHIKAMIYA"
GETS A NASTY
LOOK.



IT HAPPENED
BEFORE I
JOINED THE
TROUPE, SO I
DON'T KNOW
THE DETAILS.

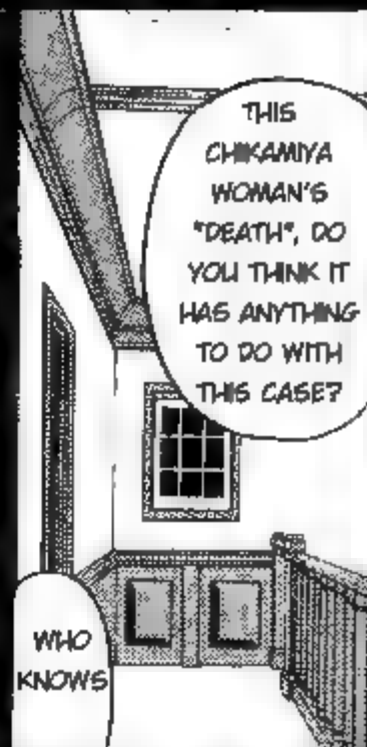
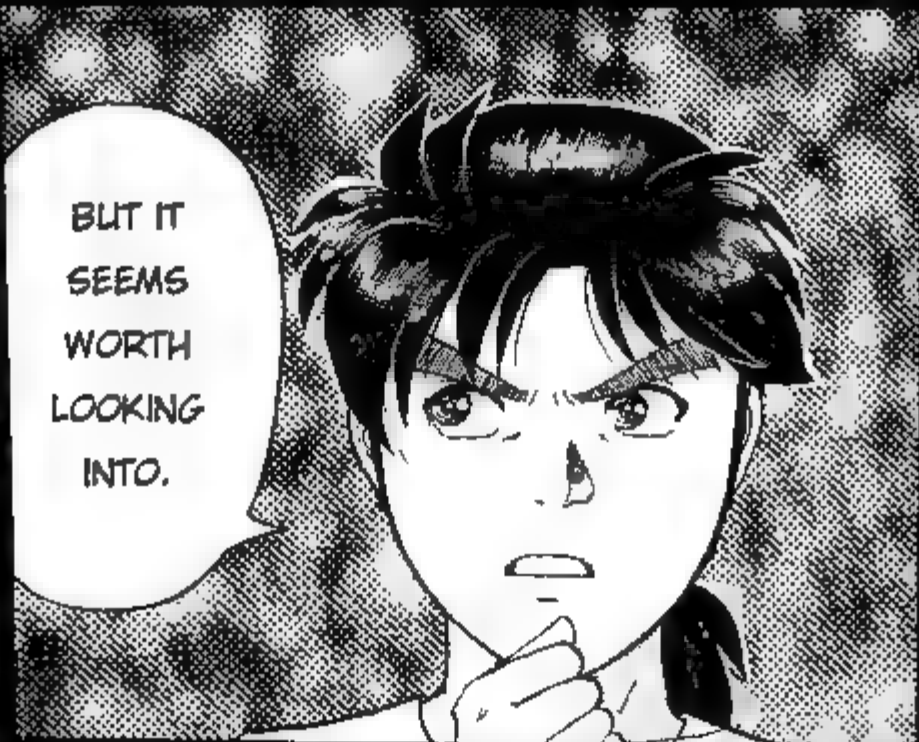


AN
ACCIDENT
DURING
REHEARSAL,
HUH?





BUT IT
SEEMS
WORTH
LOOKING
INTO.



THIS
CHIKAMIYA
WOMAN'S
"DEATH", DO
YOU THINK IT
HAS ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
THIS CASE?

WHO
KNOWS

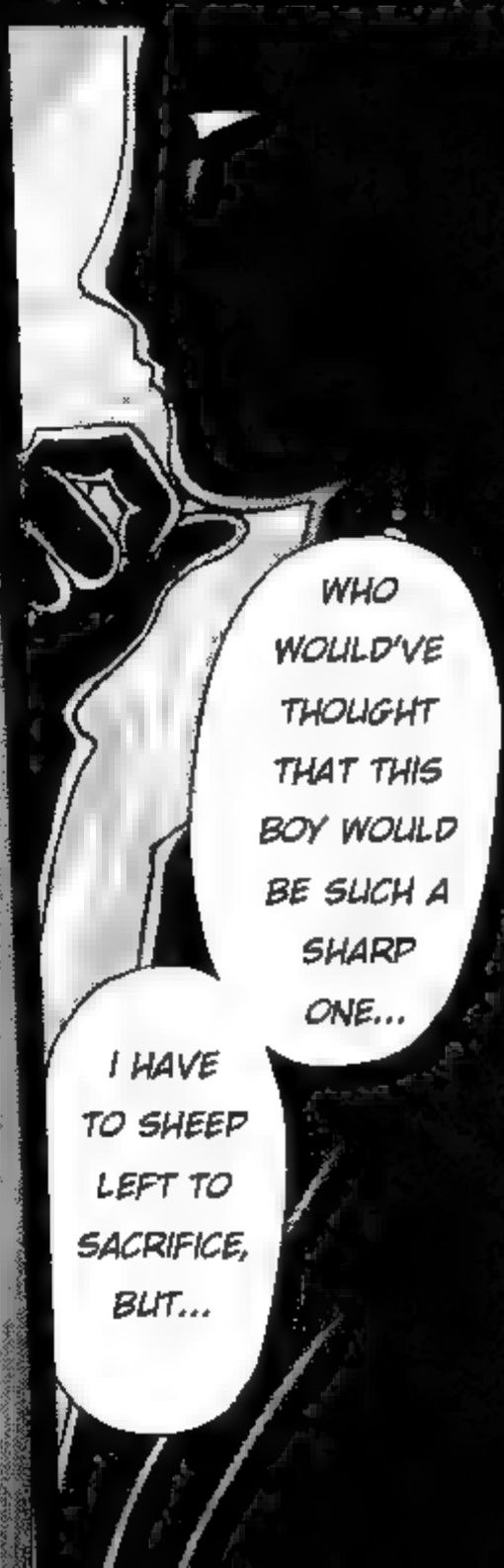


I SWEAR.
WHAT TROUBLE-
SOME KIDS...



IT
SEEMS
THAT
NOW I
HAVE
ONE
MORE!

KINDAICHI,
YOUR
TURN IS
COMING!



WHO
WOULD'VE
THOUGHT
THAT THIS
BOY WOULD
BE SUCH A
SHARP
ONE...

I HAVE
TO SHEEP
LEFT TO
SACRIFICE,
BUT...

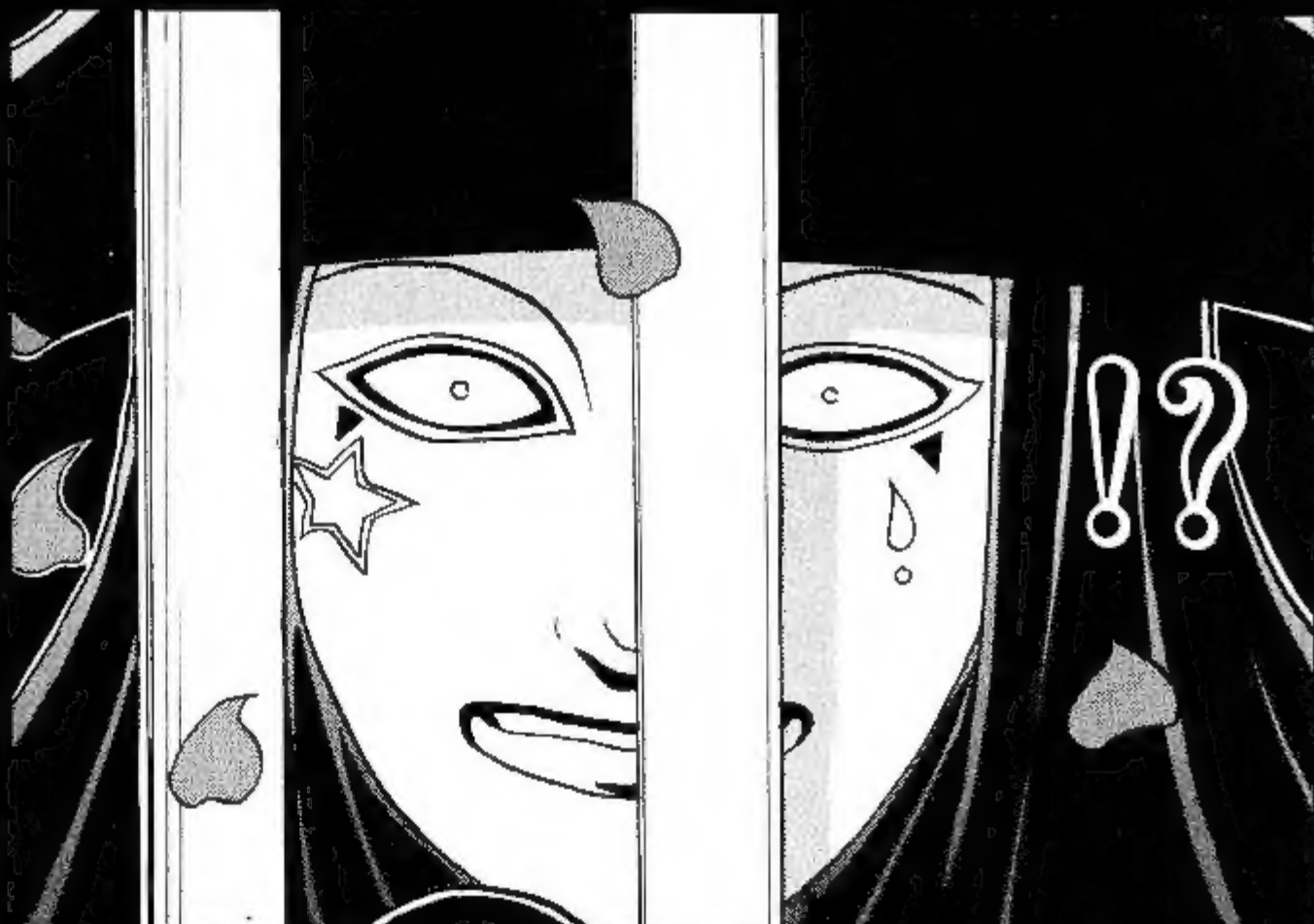


I FEEL AS IF I'VE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING...



BUT WHAT?





...THE
PUPPET-
MASTER

!?





COME TO
ME, MY
SACRIFICE!

COME
NOW, MY
LITTLE
SHEEP...



TO THE
DARK,
COLD...

...ALTAR
OF
DEATH!